

# Updates to the Tompkins County Unique Natural Area Inventory

September 2012, revised June 2014

Phase 1

# UNAs include one or more of the following characteristics

- designated area or preserve
- state designated wetland
- contains diverse flora or fauna
- rare or scarce plant or animals
- historical botanical or zoological importance
- geological importance
- important teaching site (e.g. meadow with a diverse array of common plants all in one place)
- old growth woods
- important birding site
- quality of plant or animal community
- recreational value
- scenic vista
- wilderness
- archeological or paleontological site
- cultural or historical importance
- urban greenspace

# Previous UNA boundary delineation methods

- Field assessments
- Expert knowledge
- Historical records
- Second- and third-generation photocopies of low-resolution aerial imagery from 1990 and earlier
- Hand- delineated with marker and then transferred manually to GIS
- Limited GIS data



# Guidelines for boundary updates

- Inclusion of National Wetlands Inventory
- Conform to edge of vegetation and/or land contours
- Inclusion of newly protected lands (e.g., nature preserves)
- Change in landcover since last field visit or aerial photo series (1995 or earlier, vs. 2009 imagery)
- Phase 1 of project included 43 of the top-ranking sites

# Total changes included in new update

- Total acreage in revised set of UNAs = 17,429
- Total acreage in original set of UNAs = 14,888
- Total change in acreage in UNAs, with this revision = +17%
- Addition of avian information for UNA sites, based on eBird dataset, 2000-2010
- Addition of herpefauna censuses, where available
- Addition of large mammal census data, where available
- Updates of plant rarity statuses

# Key to maps

- Original UNA boundary
- Revised UNA boundary
- 2009 aerial orthoimagery

